



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

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FY-02-106

PSC APPROVES AT&T TARIFF

Jefferson City (December 14, 2001)---The Missouri Public Service Commission has approved a tariff filed by AT&T Communications of the Southwest, Inc. (AT&T) which establishes an "instate connection fee" of \$1.95 a month for Missouri AT&T customers.

In a filing with the Commission on September 7, 2001, the Staff of the Public Service Commission recommended the tariff be approved. Staff's filing pointed to the fact that AT&T is a provider of competitive telecommunications service and as such the Commission does not typically scrutinize the rate structure of a competitive long distance service provider beyond compliance with a few limited rate requirements identified in Missouri law.

The PSC Staff stated that it did not believe the "instate connection fee" charge was discriminatory; that monthly-recurring charges and surcharges are common in the industry and that AT&T should not be singled out for special treatment by the Commission or the Office of the Public Counsel based upon their filing; and customers have the ability to switch providers if they so desire.

Missouri law requires a competitive telecommunications company seeking to change or establish a rate to file its proposed tariff with the Commission and give affected customers no less than 10 days notice of the proposed change in rates. That has been followed in this case. AT&T's direct mail notice indicated the establishment of the charge and also informed the customer of a toll-free number and a website where customers could learn more about the charge.

The Commission stated in its order approving the tariff: "Because AT&T's proposed rate increase of \$1.95 applies only to a competitive service, consumers are free to obtain service from an alternative provider if they object to the rate."

Under the tariff, AT&T will establish a \$1.95 monthly service charge known as an "instate connection fee" for those Missouri customers who have AT&T as their interLATA long distance provider. According to the tariff, any AT&T customer who uses more than \$1.00 in long- distance calls or who is billed for other services of \$1.00 or more will be charged the "instate connection fee" of \$1.95 a month.

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